Upper Gloucester Maine September 25. 1876

Dear Friend Garrison

37 I have seen your letter recently written to a colored correspondent in Illinois and advising him to vote for Hayes and Wheeler with every word of which I most heartily agree. It has the true ring of the good old Liberator and in reading I seemed carried to those times the conditions of which happily no longer exist although the present conditions are bad enough.

I think it of the utmost importance to the country and to humanity that the Republican party should elect the president and vice president this year and I think it of equal importance Democratic or Demoncratic party should be defeated for all time. For although the Republican party is not pure yet I hold its antagonist to be so totally depraved that there is no possible ground of hope for its regeneration. So far as we can judge from its manifestations coming from the South and the servile qualities of its elements North, it is comprised as it has been for thirty years past and more of individuals, the first and most

essential article of whose political creed is that negroes have no rights which white men are bound to respect- all else is secondary to that. But the Republican party although based upon the professed doctrine of equal rights for all and a sacred regard for the national honor contains elements of a dangerous nature that require only time for their development and to which I apprehend the party would be quite ready to surrender if success depended upon it. You will naturally suppose I allude to the "evangelical" religious element in it. The constituents of this element, you know, maintained a hostile position to the Antislavery movement so long as their apparent interest required them to do so, and just as fast as they found it the gaining side, came by little and little into it— always under protest against the chief managers of the movement as "infidels"— until "bleeding Kansas" aroused the popular indignation of the secular citizens, when suddenly the church north wheeled into line and almost every pulpit thundered forth its anathemas against the "encroachments" of the slave power; and when at length under pressure of a military necessity the proclamation of emancipation went forth, they exclaimed with a shout— "See what a glorious event Christianity has accomplished!" —— These men are today mostly though not entirely in the Republican party and we shall see when the lines are drawn that while both parties claim to be supporters of Christianity, the democrats will favor Catholic while the republicans will favor Protestant christianity politically.

We have already seen by the vote in the senate on the resolution to amend the Constitution that the Republicans were every one ready to put themselves on record in behalf of Protestant Christianity in the constitution while the democrats as unanimously shewed their sympathy with the papal element.

The country has prospered under a secular constitution for a hundred years and its prosperity would have been still greater had not slavery existed in it, and I would let the constitution remain as it is. But if it is to be amended I would have it so amended as to secure equal rights to every citizen discriminating against none, "except as punishment for crime, whereof the party charged shall have been duly convicted."

If once the thinest entering-wedge of a religious amendment to the Constitution can find entrance however ambiguous and innocent it may at first appear, those in whose favor it is adopted will scarcely rest until they have made it to discriminate against all but those of their own way of thinking in respect of what is called Evangelical Christianity: depend upon that.

The battle for the rights of conscience must all be fought over again or Free thought must submit to religious despotism. I believe you stand with me on this question and I shall be glad to hear from you in regard to it as well as to learn of your

personal welfare and of your family at the same time. The last letter I had from Adin Ballou informed me that your wife was an invalid and I suppose she continues to be so. As for me and my wife we have as I wrote to you heretofore been invalided for some years but still are able to hold on to and enjoy something of life. Although I am now in my Seventy sixth year the days have not come when I must say "my joys are gone" or concerning material things "my soul has no pleasure in them. I still continue to feel an interest in all that concerns the welfare of my country and Mankind.

You will not fail to notice that my handwriting is not what it once was and I grow weary in holding the pen

I find those who have not seen so many years falling suddenly around me often without a minutes warning and yet I feel as sure of living until tomorrow as I ever did and even look forward to some good years. My motto is

"Work as if you would live forever,
"Live as if you would die to day."

I remain as ever

Your affectionate
Friend
D L Grandin